

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-14. (cancelled)

15. (new) An in vitro serological diagnosis method for detecting the presence of antibodies specific to an infectious microbial agent in a sample to be tested, which comprises:

a) depositing on a solid substrate a first antigen  $Ag_1$  comprising a whole *Staphylococcus aureus* bacterium which comprises protein A and at least one second antigen  $Ag_2$ , wherein said second antigen  $Ag_2$  is an infectious microbial agent, and

b) contacting said first antigen  $Ag_1$  and said at least one second antigen  $Ag_2$  with a sample to be tested causing said first antigen  $Ag_1$  and said at least one second  $Ag_2$  to react with a sample to be tested, and

c) detecting whether a human immunoglobulin  $Ac_1$  in said human serum reacts with said first antigen  $Ag_1$  by causing the reaction product  $Ag_1-Ac_1$  to react with a detection substance, wherein said detection substance reacts with said human immunoglobulin and not with said first antigen ( $Ag_1$ ), and wherein the reaction product  $Ag_1-Ac_1$  is formed from the reaction of said human immunoglobulin  $Ac_1$  and

said first antigen  $Ag_1$ , and

d) providing a controlled sample containing a human serum to be tested for detecting whether said human immunoglobulin react with said first antigen.

16. (new) The in vitro serological diagnosis method according to claim 15, wherein said detection substance is a secondary detection antibody  $Ac_2$  which is a labeled anti-human immunoglobulin which does not react with protein A.

17. (new) The in vitro serological diagnosis method according to claim 16, wherein said anti-human immunoglobulin is an immunoglobulin of animal origin which is goat immunoglobulin or chick immunoglobulin.

18. (new) The in vitro serological diagnosis method according to claim 15, wherein said detection substance is labeled by fluorescent marking.

19. (new) The in vitro serological diagnosis method according to claim 18 which further comprises:

- performing a series of tests at increasing dilutions of the sample to be tested with the detection substance  $Ac_2$ , wherein the detection substance  $Ac_2$  is an immunoglobulin conjugated with a fluorescent substance, and

- verifying whether a reaction product  $Ag_1-Ac_1-Ac_2$  can be detected by fluorescence at a dilution of the sample to be tested of 1/200 or less, wherein the

reaction product  $Ag_1-Ac_1-Ac_2$  is formed by the reaction of the human immunoglobulin  $Ac_1$ , the first antigen  $Ag_1$ , and the detection substance  $Ac_2$ .

20. (new) The in vitro serological diagnosis method according to claim 15, wherein said infectious microbial agent of said second antigen  $Ag_2$  is selected from micro-organisms containing a bacterium, a virus, a parasite or a fungus.

21. (new) The in vitro serological diagnosis method according to claim 20, wherein said second antigen  $Ag_2$  is an intracellular bacterium or a virus.

22. (new) The in vitro serological diagnosis method according to claim 20, wherein said second antigen  $Ag_2$  is selected from bacteria of the genus Rickettsia, Coxiella, Bartonella, Tropheryma, Ehrlichia, Chlamydia, Mycoplasma, Treponema, Borrelia, and Leptospira.

23. (new) The in vitro serological diagnosis method according to claim 22, wherein said second antigen  $Ag_2$  is an infectious microbial agent which is a bacterium responsible for endocarditis.

24. (new) The in vitro serological diagnosis method according to claim 21, wherein said second antigen  $Ag_2$  is an infectious microbial agent which is a viral antigen selected from among the H.I.V., C.M.V. or Epstein-Barr viruses.

25. (new) A diagnosis kit for detecting the presence of antibodies specific to

an infectious microbial agent in a sample to be tested, which comprises:

- a solid substrate comprising a second antigen  $Ag_2$  which is an infectious microbial agent,

- one positive controlling inclusion comprising a human serum in the sample to be tested which comprises a first antigen  $Ag_1$  containing a whole *Staphylococcus aureus* bacterium containing protein A, and

- at least one reagent which can detect the presence of a reaction product of said first antigen with a human immunoglobulin  $Ac_1$  comprising a detection substance  $Ac_2$  which comprises a labeled immunoglobulin which is an anti-human immunoglobulin which does not react with protein A.